

REMARKS

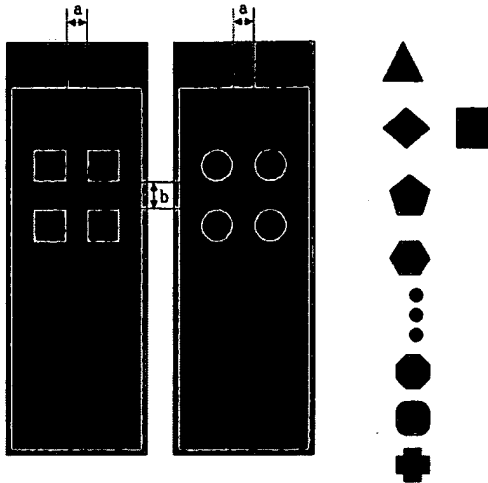
Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given to the present application.

By this reply, claims 1, 6 and 24 are hereby amended to further claim what Applicants believe to be the invention. No new matter has been added by way of the foregoing amendment. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12, 13, 24 and 26-29 are currently pending for examination on the merits. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12, 13, 24 and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fleming et al (U.S. 6,111,357, hereinafter Fleming). Claims 1, 3-7, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA), further in view of Fleming et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Fleming does not anticipate claim 1 as amended. More specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to positively recite a combination of features including, inter alia, "wherein a first distance between the holes arranged along the first direction is smaller than a second distance between the holes arranged along the second direction" (emphasis added).



[Fig. 6 of the claimed invention]

As shown in Fig. 6 of the claimed invention, the first distance (a) is smaller than the second distance (b). Fleming does not teach or suggest at least the above-noted claimed feature. Thus, at least this claimed feature is clearly absent from Fleming. Accordingly, both Fleming and AAPA fail to teach or suggest at least the feature of “wherein a first distance between the holes arranged along the first direction is smaller than a second distance between the holes arranged along the second direction” recited in the claim 1.

Similarly, independent claims 6 and 24 have been amended to positively recite a combination of features including, inter alia, “wherein a first distance between the holes arranged along the first direction is smaller than a second distance between the holes arranged along the second direction” (emphasis added). Thus, independent claims 1, 6 and 24, and their dependent claims 5, 10-14, 17-21 and 23 (due to the dependency) are all patentable over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore requests favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

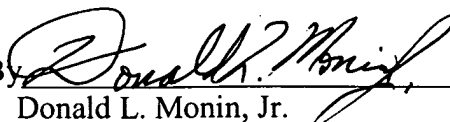
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-2353. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Dated: January 13, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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